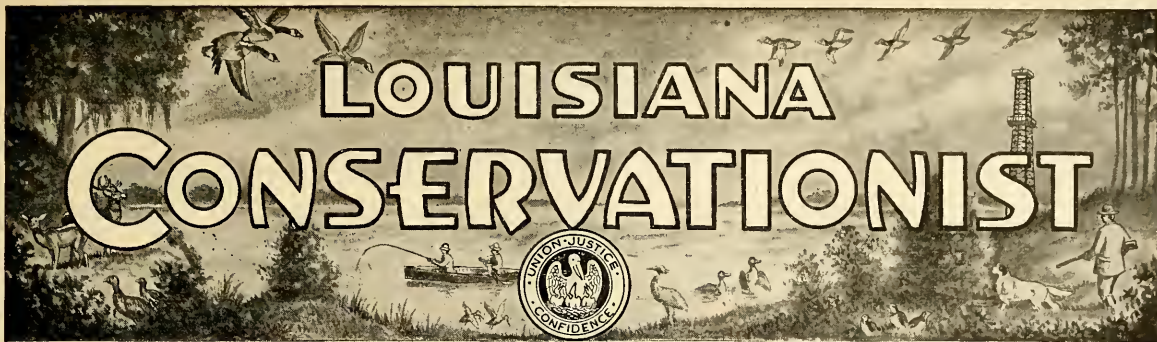




Volume 3

NOVEMBER, 1945

Number 12

State Hunting Club Will Not Be Operated This Year

Commissioner John G. Appel of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries has announced that the Pass-a-Loutre Hunting Club, the 66,000 acre state-owned game refuge located at the mouth of the Mississippi River, will not be operated this year.

The club, once a popular duck hunting refuge, has not been operated or open to the public since the war. For two years during the war, the club was used by the Coast Guard as a patrol base, and last year it was formally turned back to the Department by the Coast Guard.

"Since that time", Commissioner Appel stated, "it has not been possible to restore the club to its original pre-war condition. This

(Continued to Page 8, Column 4)

Louisiana's Greatest Duck Hunting Season Gets Under Way

What is expected to be Louisiana's greatest duck hunting season got under way at 30 minutes before sunrise on Friday, November 2nd. Both from the number of duck hunters and the number of ducks expected, this 80 day 1945-46 season may well be a record-breaker for Louisiana.

While the southward flight of ducks from their breeding grounds has been delayed due to warm weather, food and water conditions all along the coastal area are better than they have been in years. Unlike last year, all ponds and streams from Pearl River, on the eastern boundary to Sabine River, on the western boundary, are chuck full of the aquatic plants that supply food for ducks. There has also been an unusually heavy early concentra-

tion of Blue Geese in the area from Marsh Island to the Sabine River, and likewise there have been early large arrivals of Snow Geese, Pintails, Teals and Ring-necks in various marsh areas.

Fine weather in Canada has delayed the annual southward flight of ducks and geese, but it will benefit the hunters in the Southern tier of states, including Louisiana, because a sudden freeze in the northern portions of the continent will send the ducks and geese high-balling southward and the first cold wave should see them in Louisiana by the thousands.

Louisiana has always ranked as one of the leading migratory waterfowl states in the nation. Based on sales of federal duck stamps, Louisiana last year was second in the South in the number of duck hunters.

Experiments Prove Muskrat Meat Ideal For Chicken Feed

Experiments to make chicken feed from muskrat carcasses have been successfully undertaken at the Louisiana State University experiment Station recently, and baby chicks have grown and thrived on the feed made from muskrat meal.

Louisiana usually produces between five and six million muskrats each year, and for years efforts have been made to make some economic use of the muskrat carcass, which in most cases, is thrown away, after it has been stripped of its valuable fur.

Some attempts were made, during the war, to popularize muskrat meat as food for humans. To help this movement, the Legislature enacted a measure to call the car-

(Continued to Page 7, Column 4)



LOUISIANA NOV 17 1945

JIMMIE H. DAVIS
Governor of Louisiana



JOHN G. APPEL
Commissioner

LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST

Published Monthly in the interest of conservation by the
Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries
126 Civil Courts Building, New Orleans, La.

ISAAC D. CHAPMAN
Editor

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Volume 3

NOVEMBER, 1945

Number 12

Survey Reveals Oyster Mortality On Leased Grounds

Commissioner John G. Appel of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department, has announced that a survey recently made by Dr. A. E. Hopkins, aquatic biologist in charge of the U. S. Fisheries Biological Laboratory at Pensacola, Miss., and James N. McConnell, director of the Department's Oyster Division, has revealed heavy mortality of oyster reefs in the Lake Mechant area in Terrebonne Parish.

The survey was made at the request of Congressman James Dommengaux of the Third Congressional District, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wild Life and Fisheries Department.

It revealed, according to an incomplete report received by Commissioner Appel, that all oyster reefs in Deer Bayou were dead, that approximately 75 percent of the oysters in Lake Mechant were dead, and approximately 75 percent of oyster mortality had occurred in Mud Lake. All of these areas are state leased breeding grounds and are located in Terrebonne Parish.

Records of the Department's Oyster Division show a total of 115 acres in leased oyster breeding grounds in Deer Bayou; 600 acres in Lake Mechant, and approximately 115 acres in Mud Lake.

The heavy oyster mortality, according to claims of fishermen in that area, was caused by the construction of a dam built by U. S. Engineers in Bayou Teche at Calumet during the high water last Spring, which caused an increase of river water to be thrown over that area.

There is a bill pending in Congress asking for damages not to

exceed three million dollars to the States of Louisiana and Mississippi and to oyster fishermen for damages to oyster beds caused by the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway last Spring, and Congressman Dommengaux has advised the Department that the results of this latest survey would form the basis of additional claims for relief to oyster fishermen in the Lake Mechant area in Terrebonne Parish.

GAME COMMISSIONERS TO HOLD MEETING

The Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners will meet with Federal Game officials at Lake Mattamuskeet, North Carolina on November 18, 19 and 20, it has been announced by Hinton James, Director of the Division of Game and Inland Fisheries of North Carolina, who is president of the Association.

Commissioner John G. Appel and Major James Brown, director of the Fish and Game Division, will represent the Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries at the convention.

RELEASE WILD TURKEYS IN CHICOT PARK AREA

Fifty wild turkeys were released in the restricted wildlife area in Chicot State Park last month, it has been announced by the State Parks Commission. The birds were obtained from Mississippi by Herman Guillory, chairman of the Parks Commission.

These turkeys consisted of five brown gobblers, five young gobblers and 40 young hens. They will be kept in the wildlife area, covering 2,500 acres under fence, and such young as they produce will be allowed to roam at will inside or outside the park area, but they will be fully protected at all times.

Souvenir Guns Are Dangerous—Be Careful of Them

The Wild Life and Fisheries Department has issued a warning to sportsmen and others to beware of souvenir guns brought back from the theatres of war.

The American serviceman is inherently a souvenir collector. This tendency, however, is apt to prove a disastrous boomerang in many cases if returning soldiers and sailors follow through on what is only a natural inclination and have their captured Japanese and German military rifles converted into sporting firearms chambered for American-made ammunition.

This is particularly true with the Japanese Arisaka rifle. Japanese arms are not made under the careful manufacturing controls which governs American, British and German manufacture. Some of them might stand conversion to sporting loads, but they are few and far between among the vast numbers of Arisakas of wartime manufacture, which are made of poor metal with inferior workmanship and sloppy fitting.

The best place for a captured Arisaka is on the wall or in the gun-rack as a souvenir. That is the advice of all competent gunsmiths, many of whom consider this rifle more dangerous to the shooter than Damascus barrels on a shotgun.

The warning also holds good for guns picked up in the European theater of war. Many soldiers have walked into abandoned munitions factories in Germany and helped themselves to what small arms they found. They have no way of knowing whether these guns have ever passed final inspection, whether they've been proof-fired or whether they are "rejects" due to faulty material, workmanship or mechanism.

DIRECTORY OF DIVISION HEADS AND OFFICIALS OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

John G. Appel, Commissioner
L. J. Scanlon,
Executive Assistant
H. M. Grode, Chief Accountant
J. N. Gowanloch,
Chief Biologist
Isaac D. Chapman,
Education and Publicity
J. C. LeBlanc, Enforcement
Armand P. Daspit,
Fur and Wildlife Refuge
James Brown,
Fish and Game
J. N. McConnell,
Oyster and Waterbottoms
Louis Cusachs,
Research and Statistics

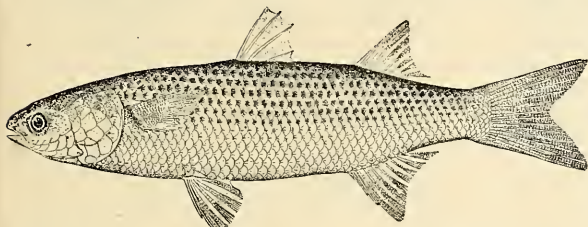
The average sportsman has no assurance that these abandoned guns do not have a few parts missing. He is generally satisfied if the gun seems to function properly in "dry" (unloaded) shooting. His only proof is in firing the piece, and then the answer may be in the form of very bad news. Already accidents of this type have been reported.

This warning does not apply only to sportsmen and other adults handling the foreign military firearms. Parents must be doubly careful that these weapons are well out of reach of the curious fingers of their children. Captured guns are not playthings. They are dangerous weapons and should be treated as such by every American.

Louisiana residents who desire to get on the mailing list to receive the **Conservationist** each month should send such request with their name and address to the editor of the **Conservationist**, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans 16, La.

KNOW YOUR LOUISIANA FISH

By JAMES NELSON GOWANLOCH,
Chief Biologist, Fish and Game Division,
Louisiana Department of Wild Life & Fisheries



No. 12

STRIPED MULLET

Mugil cephalus Linnaeus

Other Names: Common Mullet; Cefalo; Macho; Machuto; Lisa; Jumping Mullet; Cabezuda; Callifaver Mullet.

Range: Atlantic Coast, Cape Cod to Brazil; occurs also in the Pacific from Monterey to Chili, to Hawaii and Japan.

Size: Reaches two feet in the South, sometimes only one foot in the northern part of its range. Young Mullet are bright silvery and until about two inches long have only two instead of three spines in the anal fin. Adults may reach four to five pounds.

Identification: 8 instead of 9 rays in anal fin. Usually larger than White Mullet.

Fin Formula: First dorsal, 4 spines, second dorsal, 1 spine and 8 soft rays; anal, 3 spines and 8 soft rays (very rarely 3 spines and 7 soft rays).

Description: The rather robust body is somewhat compressed and moderate in depth. A broad "adipose membrane" shows on the anterior and posterior part of the eye. Tail fin deeply forked. Dark bluish above; silvery sides show conspicuous, dark stripes along each row of scales; below tail yellowish; ventrals yellowish; other fins more or less dusky. Teeth minute and weak because of the character of the food.

Food: Microscopic organisms mostly diatoms (minute plants) and foraminifera (minute animals), usually much intermixed with quantities of mud and vegetable debris.

Bait: Both species of Mullet are usually taken in Louisiana by means of cast nets or seines. Fished in Hawaii as indicated below.

Value: High flavor and food value when taken from appropriate waters. Excellent value as bait for tarpon and other large sea fish.

General: The Mulletts are closely related to two other interesting fish families, the Silversides and the Barracudas.

The Silversides are small (about three inch) inshore fish that usually display a bright silvery lateral stripe. They often occur in numerous schools and may enter the Mississippi river in almost incredible numbers. Their value as food for other fish is extreme. Certain species of Silversides are very agreeable food in the fish markets of the North as "whitebait".

The Barracudas include the Great Barracuda, a ten foot, virtual "tiger of the sea". A small (2 foot) relative, the Guaguanché, occurs not uncommonly in Louisiana waters.

Striped Mullet support a 37,000,000 pound, \$1,000,000 annual fishery in the United States, of which close to 2,000,000 pounds are cured, about three quarters of it dry-salted in Florida, the balance brine-cured in North Carolina. The fishery centers on the Florida West Coast where over three quarters of the total catch of all commercial Mullet are taken. The fish are caught by gill nets, haul seines, and trammel nets. As much as 62,000 pounds can be taken in a single haul. Such great productivity appears to be lacking in Louisiana waters, although the Mullet often seem to be numerous because of their conspicuous jumping habits.

The usual method in Louisiana is to catch Mullet in a cast net but *Mugil cephalus* is also caught in Hawaii with hook and line and provides a lot of sport. There, this fish (the same species as our own), has been known to reach a weight of 9 pounds. Hawaiians adjust their fishing line accurately so the bait comes within six inches of the bottom. Where the fishing grounds are well known, the Hawaiians go to their favorite spot the day before and drop balls of bread mixed with sand or mud which serve to "chum" the fish quite precisely. They use bread for bait.

Bait: Same as Striped Mullet.

Value: Less important than Striped Mullet because of smaller size and numbers.

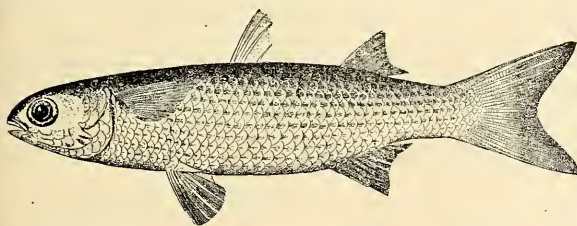
Mullet are one of the few marine fish that have been successfully reared in ponds. These practices, which were carried out in Hawaii from the earliest days (until destruction of forests and silting of the streams destroyed the ponds) have been tried out with some success in the Carolinas.

Mullet have a peculiar thick, transparent tissue called the adipose eyelid covering their eyes, and also possess extraordinary henlike muscular gizzards. They are stout, round, small-mouthed, flat-headed, large-scaled fish.

They support, on the Florida Coast, a large fishery that is pursued by the use of nets corked, leaded and staffed which the fishermen of each boat connect with the corresponding 150 yard or more nets of other boats and surround the discovered fish. Mullet schools swim at only two or three miles an hour.

Mullet in Louisiana are chiefly taken by means of cast nets. Mullet taken in more or less enclosed ("inland") waters often have a thoroughly objectionable "muddy" taste but no one in Louisiana should condemn the species until they have eaten some freshly caught Mullet from such areas as Chandeaur Sound and Breton Island. The Mullet are conspicuous fish because of their odd behavior in jumping repeatedly out of the water. Adults, particularly large Mullet, usually jump a trammel net while the small Mullet go directly through an ordinary trammel net and escape.

Gunter found that Mullet in the bays begin to show yellow roe and milt in October, a condition which continues through December. Roe Mullet, he found, collect around the Gulf passes during the autumn, and the large fish become scarce in the bays in September and October. The young first appeared in many seine catches in December and continued until March and even April. Gunter found six-inch Mullet were a year old. Mullet, after spawning from late October to early January near the Gulf passes, then scattered.



No. 13

WHITE MULLET

Querimana curema (Cuvier and Valenciennes)

Other Names: Blue-backed Mullet; Lisa; Lisa Blanca.

Range: Cape Cod to Brazil and Magdalena Bay to Chili; general distribution, all tropic seas.

Size: Same as Striped Mullet.

Identification: 9 instead of 8 soft rays in anal fin. Usually smaller than White Mullet.

Fin Formula: First dorsal, 4 spines, second dorsal 1 spine and 8 soft rays; anal 3 spines and 9 soft rays.

Description: Fish is dark olive above (with some bluish reflections), silvery below, no dusky streaks along the sides; a rather small dark blotch at the base of the pectorals; spinous soft dorsal and pectoral fins pale with numerous small spots. Caudal fin pale, base yellowish, margin blackish. Tail fin deeply forked.

Food: Same as for Striped Mullet.

RECOGNIZING LOUISIANA DUCKS

Most hunters have a pretty good idea what they're shooting at, and know what they have if and when they connect. Most hunters know a buck when they see one, and know quail when they bag 'em, but there's one group of game on which a good share of the hunting fraternity doesn't qualify as experts—and that group is the waterfowl. To a lot of fellows who hunt ducks, waterfowl consist of swans, geese and ducks. As to the fifteen or more kinds of ducks they may encounter in Louisiana they're extremely vague. Unless we have a pretty good idea as to the kind of ducks we're shooting at we can hardly rate as expert wildfowlers no matter how surely we can point a gun.

Our four principal species of geese are not too difficult to identify. If they have a white cheek mark, they're Canadas; if they have a white face mark above the bill, they are the White Fronted Geese, if they haven't they're almost certainly either Blue Geese (bodies dusky in color) or Snow Geese (bodies all white or whitish, except for black wing tips). The real worry comes with the ducks.

Our ducks are divided, for convenience, into Mergansers (Fish Ducks), Dabblers (River and Pond

Ducks), and Divers (Bay Ducks).

In the game bag these groups are easily told apart by the narrow saw-toothed bill of the Mergansers, and the prominent flap on the hind toes of the Divers. Dabblers have a typical duck bill and no hind top-flap. In flight certain characteristics are useful in distinguishing the major groups. The Dabblers, with two notable exceptions, have a slow wing-beat and a long stroke; Divers fly with rapid, short strokes of the wing; while Mergansers have a distinctive stretched-out horizontal position in the air that separate them from the other ducks.

In rising from the water Dabblers may spring up almost vertically, especially when surprised, but Divers and Mergansers climb more gradually. Coming in to decoys the Dabblers tend to circle the blocks and hover for a moment with outstretched legs a few feet over the water. Divers usually fly in at lower altitude and alight directly.

Identifying ducks in flight becomes something like recognizing airplanes, which almost anyone can learn if he has sufficient interest and incentive. Among the various traits that the would-be waterfowl expert should look for in a duck

on the wing are the following: silhouette characters (shape, size and position in flight of bill, neck, body, wings, tail, etc.); flight characteristics, pattern of light and dark areas; position, size and shape of wing patches; and voice, (pitch, volume, rapidity, etc., of calls). Color is of course useful in good light and at close range. Many ducks, particularly the Dabblers, show a conspicuous white or colored spot in the upper part of the wing, toward the rear edge. This bright mark is called the speculum (from a Latin word meaning "mirror"). It is a useful mark at close range, and particularly for birds successfully bagged.

One difficulty in identifying ducks is that during early hunting season many are still in process of changing from the brief "eclipse" plumage of summer, in which drakes, rather resemble the females, to the bright new plumage of late fall and winter which artists prefer to paint in their pictures of wildfowl. Young birds have their own plumage peculiarities in autumn, which tend to confuse the issue still further. On this and the next page, there appear brief and specific characteristics of the most prominent Louisiana ducks, and in these brief descriptions an attempt has been made to list recognition traits that are useful regardless of sex, age, and plumage differences. It is hoped that these short descriptions, taken in conjunction with the black

and white sketches, will be helpful in recognizing some of our Louisiana ducks as they appear on the wing, but it is realized that in many instances fuller descriptions and more pretentious illustrations will be needed. The books of *Kortright and of **Peterson are excellent references on field identification methods, and there are many other good sources as well.

The most important factor in getting acquainted with ducks is the making of a serious effort to see ducks and to learn the particular traits that distinguish one from another. The hunter crouched in his blind and watching a line of ducks passing well out of range has a fine chance to practice his "book learning", and if his enthusiasm is strong enough, he can learn much by going to his favorite lake or marsh during the spring months, with field glasses instead of a shotgun. In the Spring the ducks are in bright breeding plumage, and much tamer than during the shooting season. By becoming thoroughly familiar with ducks in the spring he will find it a good deal easier to recognize them in their less distinctive fall plumage.

*Kortright, F. H. The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America. The Wildlife Institute, Washington, D. C. 1942. Contains colored and black and white illustrations of all species, together with full descriptions, and accounts of habits, life histories, etc.

**Peterson, R. T. A Field Guide to the Birds. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1934 and 1939. Gives essential field marks and ranges for all birds of the eastern United States and Canada, together with numerous black and white and some colored illustrations.

MALLARD OR FRENCH DUCK



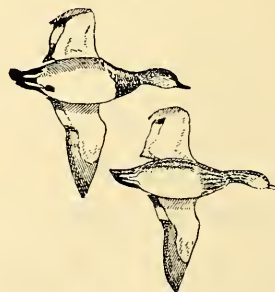
MALLARD. The slow wing-beat has a very short stroke, scarcely below the breast level. Males in full plumage are very distinctive. In both sexes the purplish blue speculum bordered with white stripes will

DABBLERS OR SURFACE-FEEDING

DUCKS have slender necks; long, narrow, and sharply pointed wings. In flight the neck is inclined upward from the body, the head bent slightly downward from the neck. Wing-beats slow, with a long stroke (except in Mallard and Black Duck). Dabblers often spring almost vertically into the air at the take-off, and hover for a moment before alighting. Several species are distinctly vocal.

identify. Under side of wings white. The "Donald Duck" quack of the female is well known.

GADWALL OR GRAY DUCK



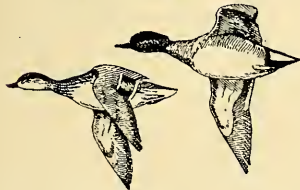
GADWALL. Slender, gray with white speculum. Wing-beat fairly rapid. Very common in Louisiana.

BALDPATE

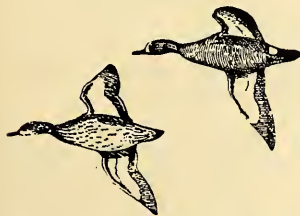
BALDPATE (AMERICAN WIDGEON). Large white patch at front edge of upper half of wing, in front of bronzy green and black speculum. Belly white. Male has white crown. Voice: like the "peep" of a tin whistle.

PINTAIL

PINTAIL. Slender ducks, with long snaky necks and pointed tails. Little white in wing, except light edging at rear. Drake has white belly and stirpe extending up neck. Color of legs and toes bluish slate. Voice: seldom heard in fall.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL

GREEN-WINGED TEAL. Small size and rapid flight; no white in wing. Speculum black and green (in good light). Belly light gray.

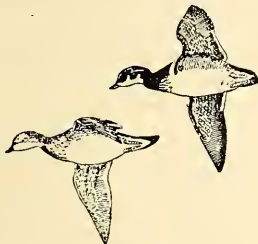
BLUE-WINGED TEAL

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Small size and rapid, twisting flight. Large light blue patch on forward part of wing appears chalky white at a distance or in strong sunlight. Speculum green.

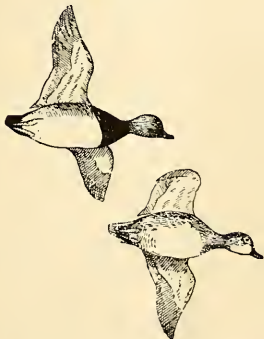
SHOVELLER OR SPOONBILL

SHOVELLER. Exceptionally large bill shows well in flight. Wings appear to be set far back; neck heavy. Wing-patches resemble Blue-winged Teal's. Voice: usually silent except when a startled flock rises.

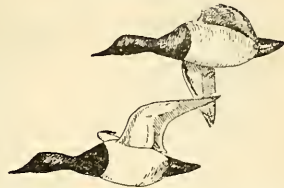
DIVERS have relatively short and stout necks; wings broad at the base, narrowing abruptly to a point. Wing-beats rapid, with a short stroke. In taking off they climb gradually. In landing on the water they come in low and alight directly. In autumn they are mostly silent.

WOOD DUCK

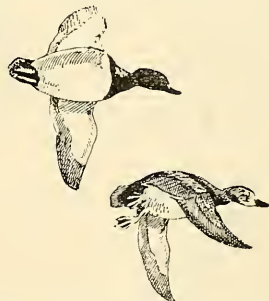
WOOD DUCK. Head held high, bill pointed downward in flight. Very long wing stroke. Male shows black and white bars on side, in front of wing. White belly contrasts sharply with dark back. White bar along rear edge of wing. Female shows white eye-ring. Feet yellow. Voice: peeping whistle when startled.

REDHEAD

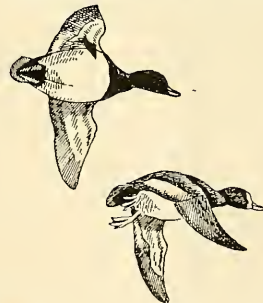
REDHEAD. Back dark. Forehead high. No white in wing; speculum gray.

CANVASBACK

CANVASBACK. Long sloping forehead gives a characteristic outline. Wings appear set far back. Back of male white. No white in wing; speculum gray.

RING-NECKED DUCK OR BLACK DUCK

RING-NECKED DUCK (RINGBILL). Much like Scaup. Size small. Back of male black. No white in wing; speculum gray. At shooting range a bluish-white ring is visible behind dark tip of bill.

LESSER SCAUP OR DOS-GRIS

LESSER SCAUP (LITTLE BLUE-BILL). Males in high plumage are characterized by dark foreparts and tail, separated by a light band around middle of bird. Wing of both sexes shows a broad white stripe near hind edge. Female shows a conspicuous white area at base of bill. (The Greater Scaup is very similar to the Lesser, but can sometimes be distinguished by a longer wing-stripe.)

BUFFLE-HEAD

BUFFLE-HEAD (BUTTERBALL). Pattern distinctive (see cut), showing much white, including white mark behind eye and white patch in wing. Wing-beats very rapid.



WITH THE MEN IN THE FIELD

Reports of Arrests and Activities of Wild Life Enforcement Agents



TYPES OF VIOLATIONS WHICH OCCURRED DURING OCTOBER

Angling Without License	7
Possessing Undersized Game Fish	2
Possessing Undersized Commercial Fish	5
Using Illegal Tackle on Game Fish	2
Commercial Fishing—No License	1
Commercial Fishing—Illegal Tackle	7
Hunting Without License	22
Hunting at Night	7
Hunting Unplugged Gun	15
Hunting Migratory Waterfowl—Illegal Hours	4
Hunting Migratory Waterfowl—Closed Season	7
Hunting Doves Out of Season	2
Hunting Doves From Auto	7
Killing Crane	3
Killing Meadow Larks	3
Hunting Deer Out of Season	4
Hunting Doe Deer	1
Hunting Quail Out of Season	3
Hunting Squirrels Out of Season	27
Hunting Rabbits Out of Season	1
Exceeding Legal Limit of Squirrel	2
Selling Squirrel	1
Hunting Snipe	1
Trapping Out of Season	5
Killing Fur Bearing Animals With Gun	2
TOTAL	141

AGENTS PARTICIPATING IN OCTOBER ARRESTS

Cliff Andrus, Angelo Benandi, Joseph Billiot, Chas Boudreaux, Percy Brossett, Lionel Broussard, A. B. Burns, John Busalacchi, A. B. Calhoun, Harris Champagne, Sam Chaze, Edgar J. B. Clement, Richard Clement, Earnest Coats, Less Davis, R. A. Davis, Wilton Decuir, Tom Dusk, C. W. Elam, Edwin D. Fairbanks, D. L. Farrar, T. H. Forman, Jr., Remont Fuse-lier, John Gilbert, Cecil Gilmore, Henry Harper, Lesna Hebert, Clarence Hood, P. F. Huddleston, Maurice Huval, Jessie Laird, W. A. Lee, Hollis Lindsey, J. V. McCon-

nell, Jas. R. McFerrin, S. P. Maxwell, R. S. Millikin, Earl Nugent, Sam Nunez, Chas. Olano, B. C. Patterson, Robert Pertuis, Eugene Phillips, W. J. Plattmier, Cliff Reeves, Harry Reno, Lawrence Sintes, Edgar Stanfield, Willie R. Stutson, Allen Swayze, Oliver Taunton, Frank Trocchiano, Fer-dic Trouille, Earl Vaught, Chas. Ventrelia, Paul Voitier, Hector Waguespack, L. C. Weaver, A. H. Willette.

PAIRSHES IN WHICH VIOLA- TIONS OCCURRED DURING OCTOBER

Avoyelles	6
Bienville	3
Bossier	6
Caddo	2
Calcasieu	17
Catahoula	1
Concordia	9
DeSoto	2
East Carroll	7
Evangeline	3
Grant	6
Iberia	2
Iberville	1
Jackson	1
Jefferson	1
Jefferson Davis	3
Lafayette	2
Lafourche	2
Livingston	2
Madison	2
Morehouse	1
Natchitoches	1
Orleans	4
Ouachita	1
Red River	2
Sabine	6
St. Bernard	5
St. Charles	3
St. Helena	1
St. John	1
St. Landry	3
St. Martin	3
St. Mary	1
St. Tammany	14
Tangipahoa	1
Vermilion	3
Vernon	10
Webster	1
West Carroll	2
TOTAL	141

Duck hunters may obtain copies of sunrise and sunset schedules from any sheriff's office in the State.

WILD LIFE AGENTS AT WORK



Each year Wild Life enforcement agents confiscate thousands of pounds of game from illegal hunters. After the cases are disposed of in the courts, the illegal game is distributed to hospitals, charitable institutions and orphanages. In the above photo agents of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department inspect a load of recently confiscated game.

GLASSELL HONORED BY SPORTSMEN

A. C. "Pops" Glassell, Shreveport oil man, and nationally known Louisiana sportsman, was honored at a testimonial banquet given by sportsmen of Baton Rouge last month. Over 400 people attended the colorful affair held on the roof of the Heidelberg Hotel.

Lt. General Troy Middleton, comptroller of Louisiana State University, was master of ceremonies, and feature addresses were given by Governor Jimmie H. Davis, and Major John G. Appel, Commissioner of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department.

Mr. Glassell, who made an interesting talk in telling of the work of Ducks Unlimited, was presented with a beautifully engraved life membership in the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

FIRST PUBLIC SQUIRREL HUNT IS SUCCESS

A total of 152 hunters participated in the first public squirrel hunt in the National Catahoula Wildlife Management area in the Kisatchie National Forest during

October, and while the total kill of squirrels has not been compiled, the hunt was considered a success, judging from available reports.

There were four hunting periods of three days each during October, and the number of permits available were limited to 40 for each three day hunt. All but 8 of the 160 permits available for the entire month were sold, it has been announced. It was the first time that this managed area in the Kisatchie Forest has been open to hunting, and the hunt was made possible through a cooperative agreement between the Wild Life and Fisheries Department and the U. S. Forest Service.

HARROD NEW U. S. GAME AGENT IN STATE

Walker T. Harrod has recently been appointed U. S. Game Management Agent for Louisiana, it has been announced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Harrod will make his headquarters in Alexandria and will assist Charles L. Horner, U. S. Game Management Agent for Louisiana in federal enforcement work.

Unfit Seafood Can Be Detected By New Discovery

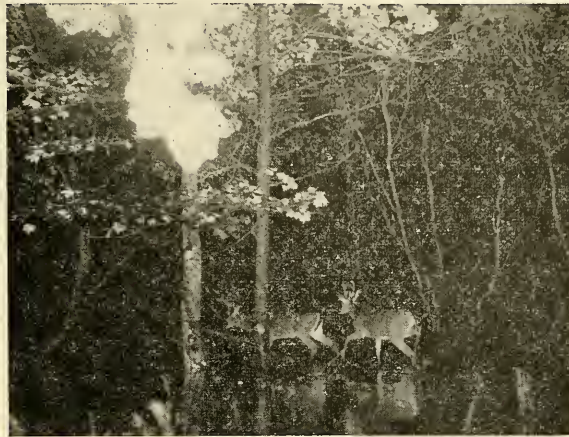
Major John G. Appel, Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries and Dr. David E. Brown, President of the Louisiana State Department of Health, announced that scientists on their staffs had outstripped nature by developing chemical tests greatly more sensitive than the nose for detecting unfit seafood. This supersensitive chemical procedure of highest practical value to seafood industries everywhere, unerringly detects decomposed seafoods even when they cannot be "spotted" by the average nose.

These researches were undertaken with the fullest cooperation of James N. McConnell, head of the Division of Oysters and Water Bottoms and Major James Brown, head of the Division of Fish and Game.

Dr. James Nelson Gowanloch, Chief Biologist of the Fish and Game Division of the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, W. H. King, Chief Chemist, and F. F. Flynn, Chemist of the State Health Department have culminated a long period of their findings in the internationally circulated "Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists".

The work was undertaken because of litigation resulting from contested seizures of alleged decomposed canned oysters involving Federal and State food regulatory agencies and certain seafood packers. Formerly all judgment regarding fitness of canned oysters has been based on the organoleptic or "sniff" test. After a bad oyster is steamed open, washed, soaked and processed in the can, it is difficult to detect by odor. Furthermore, it was contended that the residual odor of oyster reef mud gave a false impression of unfitness of canned oysters. It therefore became necessary for protection of consumers, as well as the canner, to develop a dependable scientific test for quality of oysters.

The combined efforts of the above mentioned chemists and biologists resulted in a procedure which will detect and accurately measure as little as two billionths of a pound of indole—a chemical product of decomposition of animal matter. The research disclosed that fresh oysters contain none of this material whereas oysters allowed to die and spoil in the shell always contain measurable quantities.



Louisiana's Deer Hunting Season Begins November 15

Louisiana's 47-day season on deer (bucks only) will open on Thursday, November 15th, and continue through December 31st. From all available reports, prospects are bright for a good deer season.

Hunters are reminded that the bag limit for deer is one daily, and two a season. It is illegal to kill does or fawns at any time. Night hunting with headlight or camp hunting for more than three days is forbidden.

Hunters are also requested to be careful of accidents while hunting deer, and Commissioner John G. Appel has repeated this year a few precautionary rules announced last year, for deer hunters.

They are as follows:

1. Wear a red hat or red coat, or a piece of red cloth sewed onto your coat, when in the deer woods.

The method involves isolation of the indole by steam distillation of the oysters. This is followed by extraction with immiscible solvents and development of a red color with Erlich's aldehyde. The intensity of this red color is measured in a spectrophotometer, using monochromatic light having a wave length of 560 millimicrons. The intensity is then correlated with the intensity of the same color developed from pure indole.

While the publication refers only to the application of the method to oysters subsequent experimental work shows that it can be applied to shrimp and crabs and other seafoods. Undoubtedly it will also find usefulness, later, in determination of decomposition in many other food products.

Although the basic idea is not

2. Do not load your gun until in the deer woods, then keep it on safety until you see your game.

3. Be sure it is game before you shoot, and make certain it is a legal buck. Never point your gun at anything you do not want to shoot.

4. Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp or home.

5. Do not carry your deer out of the woods on your back. That is a good way to get shot. Dragging the carcass or skidding it on poles is safer.

6. Respect the authority and rights of the land owner. Ask permission to hunt, and then take care not to harm the farmer's livestock or property.

new, all previous efforts by other scientists to apply similar procedures to food products had invariably failed because of flaws in the analytical procedures followed. Careful experimentation by the authors eliminated these flaws and led to development of the present method which will undoubtedly be used as a stepping stone to future scientific procedures for determining decomposition in a wide variety of foods.

The large majority of canned oysters are of excellent quality. The need for the above scientific development is principally for the food processors and packers to check up on their own product to avoid accidental contamination and for regulatory officials to check up on the packers to control any who may get out of line.

Experiments Prove Muskrat Meat Ideal For Chicken Feed

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cass of the muskrat "marsh hare." In some states a certain amount of muskrat carcasses have been used successfully in making up a good dog food, and for years, the glands of the muskrat have been used in the manufacture of perfume.

But, nevertheless, a large portion of muskrat carcasses in Louisiana still are unused each year, and remain an economic waste, and if the experiments presently being conducted at the LSU Experiment Station, prove successful and economical, there are possibilities for a thriving industry in the manufacture of chicken feed from muskrat carcasses.

A series of feeding tests at the experiment station reported by O. E. Goff, L. S. U. employee, resulted in the production of unusually fine fryers from chicks raised on muskrat meal.

Results of the feeding experiments proved that muskrat meal is a superior type chick feed when compared to other type meat scraps used in mashers.

Four feeding trials in all were made and 1,175 chicks were used in the experiments, Goff reported. Commercial meat scraps were mixed with all-mash rations at levels of from five, 10 and 15 per cent while other rations contained four, eight and 12 per cent dried muskrat meal.

In each test the chicks receiving the muskrat meal made greater gains than did the chicks fed rations containing commercial meat scraps. Goff stated that the results obtained cannot be fully attributed to the protein content of the muskrat scraps and therefore may be due to the differences in "amino acid" content in the rat meal.

Tests of the L. S. U. experiment station were carried to the extent of "taste tests" to establish whether or not chickens fed on the muskrat meal suffered from the standpoint of flavor. Goff reported that the tests along this line clearly showed that there is no difference in taste between chicks raised on muskrat meal or meal from other scraps.

The L. S. U. department of agricultural engineering is now working on the construction of a plant for "dry rendering" of muskrat carcasses that can be moved into the marsh areas to prepare the bodies for chick feed after they have been stripped of the valuable fur coat they carry.

Need Great for Seedling Nursery in Louisiana

After some twenty years of reforestation work, Louisiana still has approximately one and a quarter million acres of former forest lands which will never produce a crop of timber again unless it is artificially planted with young nursery grown forest tree seedlings.

Twenty years ago, Louisiana started producing nursery grown forest tree seedlings. Three or four years later found Louisiana with a modern, efficient (for its day) state owned nursery. Naturally, this incipient nursery was small. It had to be small since

The Louisiana Forestry Commission has approved plans for a new and modern forestry seedling nursery for Louisiana which will require Legislative appropriation to make it possible. The necessity for this new program and what it will mean to the forestry resources of the state will be outlined in a series of articles, of which this is the first.

little was known at the time about mass production of forest tree seedlings. Men from throughout the South, even representatives of the highly esteemed U. S. Forest Service, came to Louisiana to study and learn the new methods of seedling production. Both the federal and other state agencies profited from Louisiana's initial efforts. The Federal Government, and most all other Southern States, have today modern nurseries producing millions of seedlings. Unfortunately, Louisiana's seedling production program digressed from its initial beginning until today we are at, or shamefully near, the last in seedling production for the South.

The present nursery has deteriorated until it now consists of a fifteen acre field of exhausted soil. The only improvements to be found are a fence, one small building and a few terraces to keep all of the soil from washing away. It is beyond all possible reclamation because the soil fertility is exhausted from years of constant use and much of the top soil was washed away before the terraces were built some four years ago. Further expansion at the present site is impossible because of the adjoining typography and soil. This present nursery of ours, even with the most optimistic

Prospects Bright for Trapping Season Which Begins November 20

Trapping time in Louisiana is approaching. And the prospects for an excellent season are very good, according to Armand Daspit, director of furs and refuge of the Wild Life and Fisheries Department.

No one knows whether production will top last year's high of \$7,105,412 in muskrat furs alone. But it may hit close.

Last year was very good. Nearly five million muskrat pelts were taken, with an average price to the trapper set at \$1.23 a skin by the OPA.

The trapping season will be open from Nov. 20 to Jan. 20, inclusive, on all fur bearing animals except muskrat. And the muskrat season will be open from Dec. 1 to Feb. 15, inclusive.

"Louisiana produces more fur than all other states combined. And that includes Canada," Mr. Daspit said.

"We have a fur-producing area one-thirteenth the size of Alaska, and produce three times as much, both in number of pelts and dollars."

Although far and away the best seller, muskrat is not the only commercial fur trapped in Louisiana.

Mice take second place. Some 385,940 skins were taken in 1945, but since they sell for only ten cents a pelt, their commercial value is low.

Otter pelts brought the highest price, six dollars a skin, but only 1,872 were trapped. Mink followed.

imagination was never capable of producing but a small fraction of the seedlings demanded annually by Louisiana's landowners.

Even during the war, the Louisiana Forestry Commission was not able to meet the demands of Louisiana's landowners for tree seedlings. Now, after the war, unless we have an adequate nursery, our efforts to produce planting stock for that one and a quarter million acres of idle lands will not be called a failure because it will not even get started. Eventually, some other governmental agency will have to take over and this is a most pertinent factor because a state owned forest nursery, while it will never show a tangible, financial profit, will actually pay a greater part of its own way and at the same time write off a large part for the initial investment.

The one and a quarter million acres of forest lands in need of

There is a healthy mink trade in Louisiana now. Approximately 144,717 were trapped last year, bringing \$4.05 a skin.

Other furs taken commercially included racoons, opossums, skunks, foxes and civet cats. Together, they brought the total value of furs taken in Louisiana to around \$7,898,103.49 in 1945.

Louisiana's bayous and marshes contributed at least 67,283 fur coats to American women last year, according to a report of the United States Fish and Wild Life Services.

Undisputed leader in the muskrat trade the Louisiana catch totaled 4,440,638 pelts in the 1943-44 season.

Furriers estimate that in present-day styling a muskrat coat using backs only takes 66 skins.

In addition to the 67,283 coats of this type, therefore, several thousand others of different styles could be made with the fur left over from the Louisiana catch.

Other Southern states contributed heavily to the female winter wardrobe. The muskrat catch in Maryland was estimated at 800,000; Mississippi, 52,122; Tennessee, 5822; South Carolina, 9862; Virginia, 242,739; West Virginia, 24,831; North Carolina, 110,864; Georgia, 848; and Arkansas, 3552.

Louisiana also led the nation in its catch of mink. The 144,717 mink taken in the state last year would make 2412 choice fur coats.

artificial planting will require thousands of man years of work. Now with the end of the war there will be men in need of this work. The Louisiana Forestry Commission can, assisted financially, produce the materials to supply these men work. Louisiana landowners will buy these materials at cost and pay the men wages to set them out. These landowners have done so in the past and will do so in the future. The economics here appear to be healthy.

The present state forest nursery can produce materials to result in probably 4,000 man days of work annually. The new modern nursery needed by Louisiana would result in the production of enough forest tree seedlings for 30,000 man days of work annually. The plans for this new nursery and its requirements will be presented in a later issue of this publication.

State Hunting Club Will Not Be Operated This Year

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has been due to the fact that materials needed in renovation and repair work has not been available, and still is not available in sufficient quantities to do the necessary work.

"Also," the Commissioner continued, "guides are not available and it is extremely difficult to hunt in that area without the aid of guides". He pointed out that a number of private duck hunting clubs in that area which have been closed during the war will remain closed this year due to lack of guides and other difficulties.

The last time the club was operated as a public hunting club was in 1941. The Commissioner stated, that, while the club will not be operated this year, boat owners who desire to hunt on the refuge may do so after first obtaining a permit from the Department. Each permit will be limited to two days duck hunting and the number of permits will be limited so as to prevent over-crowding on the preserve. There will be no charge for these permits and they may be obtained from the Fur and Refuge Division in the Civil Courts Building, New Orleans.

VETERAN OFFICER RETURNS TO FORESTRY COMMISSION

Captain J. H. Kitchens, Jr., formerly a member of the 95th Infantry Division, and who was recently released from the Army, has resumed his duties with the Louisiana Forestry Commission as Assistant State Forester, Director of the Information and Education Program.

Captain Kitchens was called to duty by the Army in March, 1942. He was assigned to the 95th "Victory" Division in June, 1942 and served with that unit continuously until his release on October 17.

Captain Kitchens commanded Headquarters Company of the 378th Infantry Regiment and returned home from Europe with three battle stars on his ETO ribbon, the bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Prior to his entry into the Army in 1942, Captain Kitchens had directed the Information and Education Program for the Forestry Commission since December 1940.

If you hunt ducks and geese, you must purchase a federal duck stamp.



